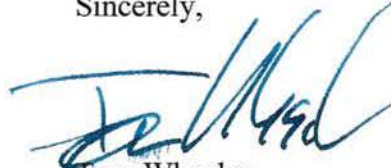


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As we continue to explore fulfilling the statutory mandate I look forward to continuing to work with you. I can assure you that we are in complete agreement about reducing consumer costs, lowering energy consumption, encouraging innovative programming, and protecting privacy, public safety and children.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond  
U.S. House of Representatives  
240 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Richmond:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern with issues relating to Section 629 of the Communications Act. Your views are very important and will be considered as part of the Commission's review.

I share your admiration for today's television landscape. There is an abundance of rich content and new technology. As you point out, technology is paving the way for software and apps to help consumers. Consumers deserve a variety of choices to view the programming they want, when they want and on the device they want. More choices often drive down consumer costs and drive up innovation.

The Commission has a statutory obligation under Section 629 of the Communications Act to assure the commercial availability of navigation devices to consumers from sources other than their traditional video programming providers, like cable, satellite, or telecommunications providers. Section 629 of the Communications Act is explicit: "The Commission shall... adopt regulations to assure the commercial availability, to consumers of multichannel video programming... of converter boxes, interactive communications equipment, and other equipment... from manufacturers, retailers, and other vendors not affiliated with any multichannel video program distributor [emphasis added]." The Act further provides that such alternatives must be secure. The issue before the Commission is how to obey Section 629 in a world of evolving technology. A monopoly-provided set top box would appear to be the opposite of the choice inherent in an "app TV" future and contrary to the statutory mandate.

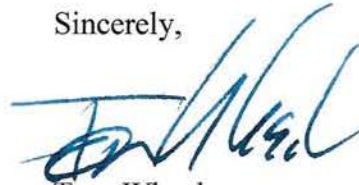
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I also share your goals that public safety and access to minority programming not be adversely affected. Any alternatives the Commission considers will include the critical capabilities to receive emergency alerts, protect privacy and abide by copyright rules. Further,

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As we continue to explore fulfilling the statutory mandate I look forward to continuing to work with you. I can assure you that we are in complete agreement about reducing consumer costs, lowering energy consumption, encouraging innovative programming, and protecting privacy, public safety and children.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2268 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern with issues relating to Section 629 of the Communications Act. Your views are very important and will be considered as part of the Commission's review.

I share your admiration for today's television landscape. There is an abundance of rich content and new technology. As you point out, technology is paving the way for software and apps to help consumers. Consumers deserve a variety of choices to view the programming they want, when they want and on the device they want. More choices often drive down consumer costs and drive up innovation.

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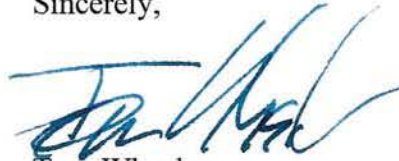
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As we continue to explore fulfilling the statutory mandate I look forward to continuing to work with you. I can assure you that we are in complete agreement about reducing consumer costs, lowering energy consumption, encouraging innovative programming, and protecting privacy, public safety and children.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2016

The Honorable David Scott  
U.S. House of Representatives  
225 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern with issues relating to Section 629 of the Communications Act. Your views are very important and will be considered as part of the Commission's review.

I share your admiration for today's television landscape. There is an abundance of rich content and new technology. As you point out, technology is paving the way for software and apps to help consumers. Consumers deserve a variety of choices to view the programming they want, when they want and on the device they want. More choices often drive down consumer costs and drive up innovation.

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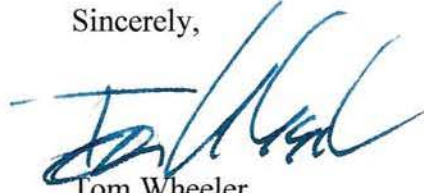
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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Bennie Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2466 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern with issues relating to Section 629 of the Communications Act. Your views are very important and will be considered as part of the Commission's review.

I share your admiration for today's television landscape. There is an abundance of rich content and new technology. As you point out, technology is paving the way for software and apps to help consumers. Consumers deserve a variety of choices to view the programming they want, when they want and on the device they want. More choices often drive down consumer costs and drive up innovation.

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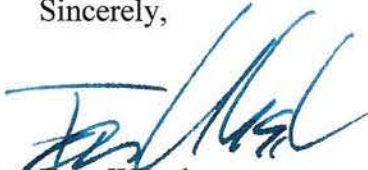
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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Marc Veasey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
414 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Veasey:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern with issues relating to Section 629 of the Communications Act. Your views are very important and will be considered as part of the Commission's review.

I share your admiration for today's television landscape. There is an abundance of rich content and new technology. As you point out, technology is paving the way for software and apps to help consumers. Consumers deserve a variety of choices to view the programming they want, when they want and on the device they want. More choices often drive down consumer costs and drive up innovation.

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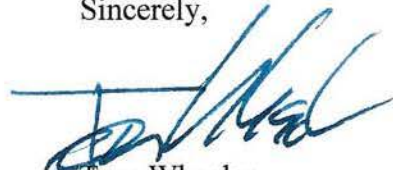
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As we continue to explore fulfilling the statutory mandate I look forward to continuing to work with you. I can assure you that we are in complete agreement about reducing consumer costs, lowering energy consumption, encouraging innovative programming, and protecting privacy, public safety and children.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
126 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Watson Coleman:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern with issues relating to Section 629 of the Communications Act. Your views are very important and will be considered as part of the Commission's review.

I share your admiration for today's television landscape. There is an abundance of rich content and new technology. As you point out, technology is paving the way for software and apps to help consumers. Consumers deserve a variety of choices to view the programming they want, when they want and on the device they want. More choices often drive down consumer costs and drive up innovation.

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Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2016

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
208 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wilson:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern with issues relating to Section 629 of the Communications Act. Your views are very important and will be considered as part of the Commission's review.

I share your admiration for today's television landscape. There is an abundance of rich content and new technology. As you point out, technology is paving the way for software and apps to help consumers. Consumers deserve a variety of choices to view the programming they want, when they want and on the device they want. More choices often drive down consumer costs and drive up innovation.

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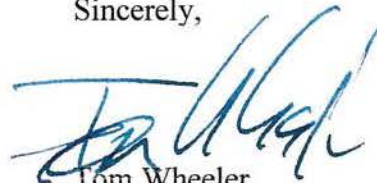
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Tom Wheeler